

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for setting up devices for communication on a communication network, the method comprising:

assigning an address to a first device coupled to the communication network;
transferring said assigned address to said first device;

in response to receiving at least one a said transferred assigned address and an identifier of said first device from said first device, communicating said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device to at least one communication server coupled to the communication network.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising detecting when said first device is initially coupled to the communication network prior to said assigning of said address to said first device.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein:

said assigned address of said first device is one of a static address, a dynamic address and an embedded device address;

said identifier of said first device is one of a digital certificate and a serial number;
and

said assigning, said transferring, said communicating and said detecting is achieved by a headend coupled to the communication network and providing access to the communication network for said first device.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising registering said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device by said at least one communication server.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising broadcasting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device throughout at least a portion of the communication network by said at least one communication server.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising receiving said broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device by a second device located in said at least a portion of the communication network.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising communicating with said first device by said second device utilizing said received broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising requesting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server by a second device desiring to communicate with said first device via the communication network.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
in response to said request, receiving said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server; and
transferring media between said second device and said first device utilizing said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising requesting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server by a second device desiring to communicate with said first device via the communication network based on a known location of said first device.

11. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for setting up devices for communication on a communication network, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

assigning an address to a first device coupled to the communication network;

transferring said assigned address to said first device;

in response to receiving at least one of said transferred assigned address and an identifier of said first device from said first device, communicating said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device to at least one communication server coupled to the communication network.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for detecting when said first device is initially coupled to the communication network prior to said assigning of said address to said first device.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, wherein:

said assigned address of said first device is one of a static address, a dynamic address and an embedded device address;

said identifier of said first device is one of a digital certificate and a serial number; and

said assigning, said transferring, said communicating and said detecting is achieved by a headend coupled to the communication network and providing access to the communication network for said first device.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for registering said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device by said at least one communication server.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for broadcasting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device throughout at least a portion of the communication network by said at least one communication server.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, further comprising code for receiving said broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device by a second device located in said at least a portion of the communication network.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 16, further comprising code for communicating with said first device by said second device utilizing said received broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for requesting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server by a second device desiring to communicate with said first device via the communication network.

19. The machine-readable storage according to claim 18, further comprising code for:

receiving said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server in response to said request; and

transferring media between said second device and said first device utilizing said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

20. The machine-readable storage according to claim 18, further comprising code for requesting said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said

identifier of said first device from said server by a second device desiring to communicate with said first device via the communication network based on a known location of said first device.

21. A system for setting up devices for communication on a communication network, the system comprising:

a headend that assigns an address to a first device coupled to the communication network;

said headend transferring said assigned address to said first device;

in response to receiving at least one of said transferred assigned address and an identifier of said first device from said first device, said headend communicates said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device to at least one communication server coupled to the communication network.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein said headend detects when said first device is initially coupled to the communication network prior to said assigning of said address to said first device.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein:

said assigned address of said first device is one of a static address, a dynamic address and an embedded device address; and

said identifier of said first device is one of a digital certificate and a serial number.

24. The system according to claim 21, wherein said communication server registers said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device by said at least one communication server.

25. The system according to claim 21, wherein said communication server broadcasts said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of

said first device throughout at least a portion of the communication network by said at least one communication server.

26. The system according to claim 25, further comprising a second device located in said at least a portion of the communication network that receives said broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein said second device communicates with said first device utilizing said received broadcasted at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

28. The system according to claim 21, wherein said second device requests said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server whenever said second device desires to communicate with said first device via the communication network.

29. The system according to claim 28, further comprising in response to said request, said second device:

receives said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server; and

transfers media between said second device and said first device utilizing said received at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device.

30. The system according to claim 28, wherein said second device requests said at least one of said transferred assigned address and said identifier of said first device from said server whenever said second device desires to communicate with said first device via the communication network based on a known location of said first device.